

Small Tortoiseshell; *Maniola jurtina* L. ssp. *splendida* White Meadow Brown and *Coenonympha pamphilus* L. Small Heath. The Painted Lady was not seen until 1996 when up to three were seen together between 19 June and 21 September.

Most of the trees suffered serious blasting of their tender foliage in a severe salt-laden westerly gale on 31 May 1996 but, despite this set-back, have recovered remarkably well. It is intended to continue recording lepidoptera as the small plantation develops. A few evenings operating a powerful blended light should attract additional species.

References

- Bradley, J.D., Tremewan, W.G. & Smith, A., 1979. *British Tortricoid Moths. Tortricidae: Olethreutinae*. Ray Society.
- South, R., 1961. *The moths of the British Isles* (new edition). Warne.

The sawfly *Blasticotoma filiceti* Klug, 1834 (Hym: Blasticotomidae) new to Wales – only the fifth British record

On 15 June 1997 I found a single female specimen of the sawfly *Blasticotoma filiceti* Klug, 1834 by general sweeping of bog vegetation in sunny weather on Cors Graianog, Carnarfonshire (grid reference SH 494453). The species was searched for specifically, but without success, on a subsequent visit in poor weather on 26 June.

It appears to be very rare in Britain, especially in natural habitats, having only been recorded from four others. It was first recorded from the Royal Horticultural Society's ornamental gardens at Wisley in Surrey in 1905 and on a number of occasions up to 1928 (Benson, 1951. Hymenoptera Symphyta Section (a). *Handbooks for the Identification of British insects*. VI (2a)). It was subsequently found at Goldsitch Moss, Staffordshire on 13 June and 26 July 1953, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on 5 August 1953 (Benson 1953. *Entomologists' mon. Mag.* 89- 304) and Sizergh Castle, Westmorland in 1980 by Keith Alexander (Quinlan & Gauld, 1981. Symphyta (except Tenthredinidae) Hymenoptera. *Handbooks for the Identification of British insects*. VI (2a) (2nd edition)). All sites other than Goldsitch Moss have been ornamental fern gardens and it had initially been postulated that the species was an accidental introduction to Britain (Benson, 1934. *Entomologists' mon. Mag.* 70: 201-204).

Blasticotoma filiceti is known to be a stem borer in the rachis of ferns, having been found in Lady Fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, ferns of the genus *Dryopteris* and Ostrich Fern *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (Benson, 1934, 1953 *op. cit.*). Midtgaard (*op. cit.*) also lists Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas* and ferns of the genus *Polystichum* (Shield Ferns) as food plants. The bog vegetation at Cors Graianog comprises a floating mat of *Sphagnum*, with abundant Cotton-grass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, Moor Grass *Mollinia caerulea*, Cross Leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Marsh Cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and Bog-bean *Menyanthes trifoliata* and includes four species of fern,

Hard Fern *Blechnum spicant*, Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis*, Lady Fern *Athyrium filix-femina* and Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. The only fern actually in the immediate area where the specimen was swept was *Osmunda*, but it was uncertain from what species of vegetation the specimen was swept. All species of fern were searched without success for exit holes or characteristic foam balls on 26 June.

I am grateful to Dave Sheppard for confirming my identification and providing further information on the species.— ROGER S. KEY, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

***Pandemis cinnamomeana* (Tr.) (Lep.: Tortricidae) in Scotland**

Pandemis cinnamomeana was first recorded from Scotland from a single specimen found resting on a leaf at Newcastleton, Roxburghshire on 19 July 1978 (Emmet, 1979. *Ent. Rec.* **91**: 124). It is now recorded from two further vice-counties in southern Scotland as follows:

VC 72 – Specimens from Dumfriesshire are present in the Arthur B. Duncan collection at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. They are two females and one male taken at light in Castlehill (OS grid reference NX 9784) on 4 July 1976 and August 1977 respectively and a single male taken at Newlands (OS grid ref NX 9685) on 8 July 1976 (information courtesy of Keith Bland, National Museums of Scotland).

VC 73 – A single male was taken in an m.v. light trap at Carsfad, St John's Town of Dalry, Kircudbrightshire (OS grid ref NX 6085) on 24 July 1988 by the author.

These records firmly extend the range of this species into the Borders and south-west of Scotland.— JESIE MACKAY, Carsfad, Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kircudbrightshire DG7 3ST.

Larvae of *Trachycera suavella* (Zincken, 1818) (Lep.: Pyralidae) found feeding gregariously

The larvae of *Trachycera suavella* are not described as gregarious in the literature. In a lecture to the South London Entomological & Natural History Society, Edwards (1944. *Proc. Trans. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* **1944-45**: 60-63) stated that the only pyrales to his knowledge with this habit were *Nephopteryx* [now *Pempelia*] *genistella* (Duponchel) and *Acrobasis consociella* (Hübner). Neither Palm (1986. *Nordeuropas Pyralider*. Apollo Books) nor Goater (1986. *British pyralid moths*. Harley Books) ascribes social behaviour to *T. suavella*. When I reared this species on a previous occasion, it was from a larva found feeding singly.

On 21 May 1997 Dr John Langmaid and I visited Red Lodge, Freckenham, Suffolk to search for larvae of *Scythris potentillella* Zeller, since the species was first taken in Britain at that locality. There I noticed a stunted hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* completely enveloped in silk webbing. We both correctly surmised that the feeding was that of *T. suavella*. I cut from it a single twig, 23 cms long but not all